

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

Council bans people's voices

Last month Hackney Community Action's representative was barred from voting on the Council's Leisure Services Committee by the Chair-person John McCafferty. The decision not to count Sabrina Aaronovitch's vote effectively ended the local community groups participation on all the Council Committees for the time being.

The situation arose when the Labour Group of Hackney Council decided to set up a review panel to look into co-opted representatives on the Council Committees.

The reps affected come from the following groups: Hackney Community Action (HCA); Hackney Council for Racial Equality (HCRE); The Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations; Hackney Ethnic Minorities Association (HEMA) and Hackney Arts and Leisure Forum. Pending their review the panel decided that only the reps elected last year could remain as members - no new people would be accepted.

Following the elections at HCA's Annual General Meeting in May, the newly elected members for the co-opted positions met and worked out a common approach. Sabrina and a number of observers attended the Leisure meeting and when John McCafferty was checking on people's credentials Sabrina introduced herself as the new rep. The Chair's response was to say that while people were welcome to stay as observers, he could not accept the votes of this years reps.

Of course this was totally unacceptable to the co-opted reps: either the Council wants community groups to be represented, or it does not. If a group is invited to send a rep then that must be the person whom the group elects according to its constitution. Sabrina explained that it was quite wrong for the Council to try and interfere with the group's internal democracy.

In view of the Council's decision the HCA rep and a number of observers walked out of the meeting, leaving the 170 community groups affiliated to HCA without any direct say in the running of the council.

More recently the review Panel called a meeting with

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Questions unanswered by suicide decision

RUBBER STAMP VERDICT

It is quite clear that the inquest into the death of Colin Roach has raised more questions than it answered. The demands for a full public enquiry into how he met his death from a shotgun blast in the doorway of Stoke Newington police station will continue. The Roach Family Support Committee, which called the inquest verdict of suicide "irrelevant", is to take its case to the European Parliament in an attempt to set up such an enquiry. Many bodies, including the Council, Hackney Council for Racial Equality and the NCCL and individuals such as local MP Ernie Roberts, still want to see the enquiry widened to cover the whole of policing in Hackney and Stoke Newington. Relations between the black community and the police are so bad that anything the police say about Colin Roach's death is bound not to be believed. And little of what the police said or did during the inquest helped to allay these suspicions.

GUN

Many of the crucial questions at the inquest concern the gun. The police maintain that Colin must have brought it into the police station entrance with him, placed it in his mouth and shot himself. The friend who gave him a lift to Stoke Newington saw him with a shoulder bag. How However it proved almost impossible for the police during the inquest to get the gun into the shoulder bag. And there were no fingerprints on the gun.

There is a further mystery about the appearance of a rolled up towel, first seen on Colin's shoulder after he was shot, and later found on his lap. Police officers were unable to explain how it had been moved.

The structure of an inquest makes it very difficult for many of these questions to

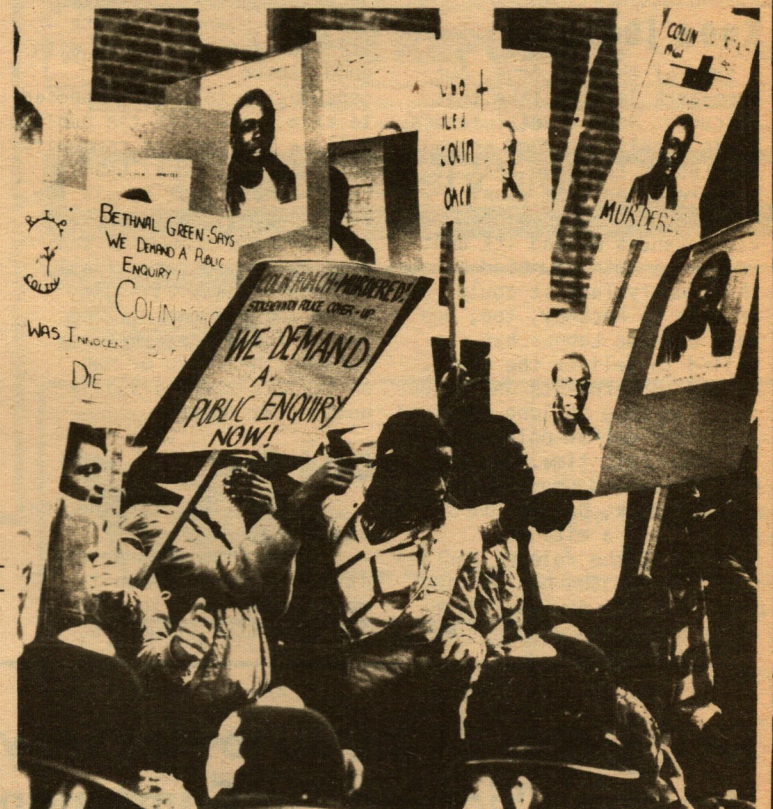
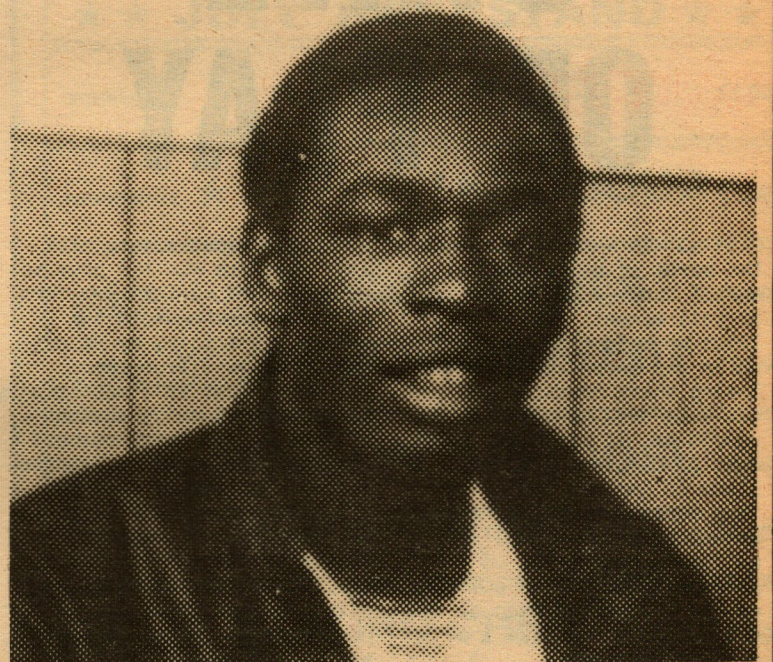
be answered fully. It is also difficult for any alternative to the coroner's view to be put to the jury, since barristers for the family (or for anyone else) have no right to sum up their cases. What happens is that the coroner states his view as to what actually happened, and asks the jury whether they agree with him. And in most cases, as they did in this, they do. In this particular case, it should be noted, there was only a majority verdict - so two of the jurors still had their doubts.

JUDGE

Now the family will be pushing for a fuller enquiry, led by a judge. Such an enquiry can be set up under a section of the Police Act, if the Home Secretary wants one. It is known that William Whitelaw had indicated some willingness to set up such an enquiry before the election. It is not clear yet whether the new Home Secretary, Leon Brittain, will agree with him, although he is himself a barrister. Enquiries of this type can open up whole cans of worms which the police will certainly want kept closed. One such case occurred in Lewisham ten years ago when an enquiry into a murder case led to the free pardon of the three youths wrongly convicted and exposed wholesale abuses of police questioning powers and interrogation methods.

SYMBOL

The death of Colin Roach has become a symbol of what is wrong with policing in Hackney. It certainly would not have become such a symbol if relations with the community were as good as papers like the Hackney Gazette and the Standard would have us believe. Nearly one hundred people would not have been arrested after some half-dozen separate demonstrations if there was



trust and understanding on the streets. It is a distortion of the truth when people concerned about the case, such as Ernie Roberts, are accused by the BBC of fanning the flames of racial discord.

The flames are burning hard, of their own accord. And they will flare up again and again, with greater ferocity until the fire is quelled. And this can only occur when truth and justice are allowed to prevail.

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PLUS PUBS • WHAT'S ON • HISTORY





INSIDE
LEFT

STATE OF PLAY

What ho, ho hum. These are the sorts of noises coming out of Hackney Labour Party at this moment. Well, at least we held onto our seats. While all around us were losing their heads we got our vote out, we got our people in. It isn't our fault that Labour lost. We can blame it on the media, on Tory money, on the character assassination of Michael Foot, on the concentration on personalities not on policies, on the failure of much of the leadership to endorse the party's programme.

Knee jerks

Some of that is true. But knee-jerk leftism like that obscures some crucial issues. It is simply not good enough for Labour to argue that it was prevented from winning the election because of circumstances beyond its control. The vote crumbled across the country (and it could crumble in Hackney, too, one day) because Labour has failed to deliver the goods. Labour governments and Labour councils have so long promised jam tomorrow, if only we vote for them this time. And they have failed to provide it.

Let's look, because it's easier, and a mite less boring, at the role of Hackney Council, and the bewildering path that the new administration has taken since it was

elected 13 months ago. Its main platform was the promise to deliver a radical new form of self-government to the people of Hackney, by decentralising power from the amorphous Town Hall departments to cosy local neighbourhood offices, under neighbourhood control. And what has happened since? The answer is a lot of running around in circles and precious little reality. We are now on yet another version of the redprint, and although some progress has been made in getting the unions to come to the negotiating forum to talk about the plans, they are still exceedingly wary, with good reason. And the consultation that was supposed to take place with the public? Well, a few hundred community activists and local Labour Party members (not at all the same people) and, I am sure, every single member of the wonderfully dedicated local Communist Party all came along and put their views. But of the average Hackney person, the woman or man on the 22a bus, virtually nothing was heard.

Cold feet

The Council is even beginning to have cold feet about the limited progress it has allowed community representatives to make in its committee structure.

All the positions which it allowed Hackney Community Action and others to send representatives forward for co-option have been frozen, at least temporarily, while the policy is reviewed. Is this the action of a radical socialist Council. Of course it isn't, and neither are many instances of industrial relations which are being practised by people who seem to be happy to model themselves on the notorious Michael Edwardes.

Local politics is in danger of festering into a stagnant mire of clogging bureaucracy and procedure. The Council seems to be saying to people, you either do it our way, or you don't do it at all. We are all in favour of a coherent and disciplined approach to dealing with the problems facing us, particularly including Thatcher and the rest of the Tories. Even ageing utopian socialists like your correspondent see that. But there are ways and means of putting those plans into action which do not alienate those with whom you should be seeking to work.

Even more importantly, and this echoes the approach that I outlined was prevalent when thinking about the election result, this arrogance and insistence on ideological purity, does nothing to build the genuine links that are needed between the Council and the mass of people who elected them into office. And it does less than nothing to build the even more important demand and insistence that the Council should be feeling from the people who elected them, that what they want is radical socialist policies which can be influenced by themselves.

At the moment, there is precious little evidence that the Council is interested in letting the voices of the people speak, even in their ramshackle, confused and haphazard way. This a poor way to go about doing things, and an impossible way to go about creating radical socialism, even in one borough.

issues -- the sexual discrimination of the Supplementary Benefit system, the dubious practice of Availability for Work testing, the lack of decent training opportunities for women and overwhelmingly, the need for adequate childcare provision for mothers who go out to work.

Informing women of their rights to benefit and the reasons for signing on remain the main focus of our campaign, but as it develops we would like to find ways to take up some of the related issues. We want to put an end to the "invisible" woman, to make sure that unemployment is seen as an issue that directly concerns women and that a return to full employment must not be the basis of "traditional" male occupations and work practices. The need for childcare provision, part time jobs, retraining opportunities, etc. must also be taken into account.

Stop the rot!

Lack of funding is threatening Hackney's planned women's centre. Women from the Hackney Women's Centre Group protested at the present impasse by picketing councillors attending a Labour group meeting on Monday night at the town hall.

The problem is how repair work, which must be carried out before the proposed property offered by Hackney Council can be used as a centre, is to be paid for.

The property at 20 Dalston Lane has extensive dry rot and this could, if not treated spread to neighbouring properties -- owned as it happens by the council. The dry rot makes the property unsafe. Architects have estimated that it will cost over £20,000 to treat as all the affected timber must be replaced. Not till then can the property be fitted out.

The group has made various applications for funds but with little success so far. The inner city partnership application is still at the DoE. Since they applied to the GLC Women's Committee some eighteen months ago there has been nothing but delays. The amendments to detailed points which are supposed to

have caused the delay are apparently now almost resolved, but this does not mean necessarily that any grant will be forthcoming in the near future.

Apart from the dry rot the property is ideally situated. It is close to the main local shopping centre and well-served by public transport. The group don't want to let the offer go -- particularly as it is unlikely that they would get anything better.

The group considers that the centre is essential: the idea of a broadly based women's centre has wide support locally. Hackney is a very disadvantaged area and part of this is its lack of almost any facilities for women -- a gap that a woman's centre could help to fill. It would provide a focal point for campaigns and activities, and offer a social and recreational meeting place, educational and advisory facilities and childcare.

Allowing such a need to be overlooked could not be permitted to happen, which was why the group was appealing for financial support to set the project going -- and to stop the rot.

Nursery deal

As a result of the Market Nursery Management Committee withdrawing the notices of dismissal and the allegations against them, nursery workers Janet Pearce and Liz Thomas have now agreed to resign. This compromise deal has been reached with the full backing of their union (NUPE) and Hackney Social Services Chair Patrick Kodikara.

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GLC grants £12,000 to Hackney Women's Signing-On Campaign

Hackney Women's Signing-On Campaign is celebrating. At the end of last month the GLC Industry and Employment Committee granted £12,000 to the campaign. The grant will be used to pay for campaign workers, equipment and publicity to enable the campaign to spread from a limited area around the Unemployment Centre to cover the whole of Hackney. 68,000 GLC Women sign on leaflets will go out to every house in Hackney. On the back is our contact address at: Hackney Women's Signing-On Campaign, c/o Hackney Centre for the Unemployed, 2nd floor Hackney Baths, 39 Lower Clapton Road.

So far 20-30 women have contacted us since 14 April and 13 have been entitled to

benefit. This may not sound dramatic, but £25 a week can make a dramatic impact on a family's income. If we use the Government's favourite trick of projecting an annual figure, this would mean that over £16,000 unclaimed yearly benefit goes to women who are entitled to it. We also do not know how many women claim after seeing our material, "without contacting the Centre."

TALKING TO WOMEN

Talking to women about their rights to Unemployment Benefit brings out many other

TORIES PLAN ILEA CARVE-UP

The Tory Government's plans for the next five years include the abolition of the GLC and ILEA. Here, RUTH GEE, deputy leader of ILEA and a Hackney Councillor, explains the Tory threat.

The Queen's Speech at the end of June confirmed the Government's plans to make "proposals for the abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan county councils." In the next session of parliament we can therefore expect to see a White Paper which will have far-reaching implications for the education service in Inner London.

First, it is important to understand how the ILEA is presently constituted. It is run entirely by women and men who are elected by Inner Londoners every four years. 35 are the GLC councillors for Inner London and 13 are local councillors representing each of the 12 Inner London boroughs and the City of London. I am the Hackney Council representative. As a directly elected authority, the ILEA has a strong sense of purpose and commitment to education.

This has contributed to one of the most impressive



education authorities in the country - some would say the most impressive. The range of education services is not confined to schools for 5-16 year olds but extends through nursery, further, youth and adult education as well. One-quarter of the UK's adult education provision comes from ILEA. It is because

of its very success that Margaret Thatcher wants to see it changed.

The suggestion now seems to be to replace it with a Joint Board. What everyone is asking is what is a Joint Board? Is it to be made up of an equal number of representatives of each Borough Council? Or with proportional representation from each

Inner London borough? Or will it be constituted like the Health Authorities with Government appointees? Whatever the final outcome, the fact remains the same - Inner Londoners will lose the right to elect directly their Education Authority. Yet another blow from a Government which purports to support individual rights and freedom.



The future of ILEA has been at risk several times in recent years. Each time the Government has had to accept that there is no suitable alternative. The rally from parents, staff and students must begin again to save what we all need.

ILEA faces another worry and that is interference in its budget. You may have heard Government speakers talking about an extravagant

authority wasting ratepayers money. How many parents and teachers would support that view, I wonder. ILEA has been without Government grant for two years: Thatcher has already deprived it of a proximately £250 million to which it was entitled. And now? Thatcher intends to force local Councils to cut services to the level the Government sees fit. This year, ILEA is spending £869 million on the whole of the education service. The Government wanted us to cut this to only £513 million - a reduction by 40 per cent. We refused this year, we have to refuse again.

Cuts of even half this size would inevitably mean redundancies, larger class sizes, fewer books, fewer repairs to buildings, slashing of adult education and nursery provision and the reduction of careers services and student awards.

We have to prevent this happening. We need the same support we built up in previous years. We are asking YOU to get involved in that fight. The storm clouds are gathering and we have to prevent them breaking.

Ruth Gee

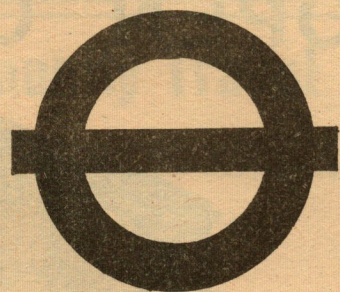
... and threaten LT also

It was 50 years ago that the forerunner of London Transport was established. It was a semi-public body called the London Passenger Transport Board. Yet amidst all the celebrations being created for us by the media and the London Transport P.R. Department, there is a growing threat emerging to the very idea of a publicly funded all London transport organisation accountable to democratic control. It is because of this that the Campaign to Improve London's Transport (CILT) has just published a booklet on the matter entitled "50 Years of London Transport - Stage or Terminus".

Past History

The Thatcherite moves towards privatisation in the public transport sector and the supposed benefit that it brings ignores past history. As the booklet points out with some detail, private ownership only led to fare-fixing at an artificially high level and the concentration of ownership in a few hands. Even when nationalised, Tory governments kept London Transport starved of funds while more effort was concentrated on road-building for private cars. It wasn't until the election of a Labour government in 1964 that public transport came to be seen as a social service rather than being required to break even or

make a profit. The control of the system was handed over to the newly constituted Greater London Council. Yet inflationary increases in the 1970's deeply eroded the value of the small subsidies that were involved. As a result, fares began to rise with some regularity, which in itself became a vicious circle as traffic fell off and took to private cars. What didn't help as well was the fact that the population of London itself was declining in number. The Tories' only answer to all this was to push for cut-backs in the service.



Fares Fair

In 1981, the new Labour administration at County Hall swiftly increased the level of subsidy to 54% and put into effect fare reductions of 32% - bringing them back in real terms to the 1969 level. Passengers carried per day and passenger

mileage increased dramatically, 10 and 12% respectively. The rate increase partly funding the policy was challenged by Bromley Council and the Law Lords declared it illegal, ruling that London Transport had a duty to attempt to break even. As a result, in March 1982, fares had to be raised by 100% with service reductions planned over the next few years. Once again, London Transport faced the prospect of increased fares and reduced passenger demand. Following fresh legal advice and a "friendly" court action against London Transport, the GLC was however able to push through fare reductions of 25% as from last May.



New Threat

There is now a new and more deadly threat to the continued existence of London Transport. Although the recent application by Associated Minibus Operators (AMOS) to run a fleet of minibuses over profitable LT routes was subsequently turned down, it now looks like resurfacing as a possibility as a result of powers given to the new Metropolitan Transport Authority (MTA). The plan to set up this body was mentioned in last month's Queen's Speech and is part of the Tory drive to carve up the GLC and its associated organisations. Tories explain that the transport proposal is designed

to allow co-ordination of all travel facilities (LT, British Rail and private operators) in the Greater London/Home Counties area. They also want to stop LT being used as a political football. The odd thing is that political nominees will apparently constitute most of the proposed MTA membership - or is it so odd when you realise that most of these delegates are going to be Tories. In the Government's eyes, they are more likely to act "in the national interest". Unfortunately, the likely end result will be LT becoming an increased burden on the tax/rate payer and less able to offer an improved service. This will be thanks to the fact that the new Authority will not be open to direct control by Londoners. As the booklet concludes, bearing in mind the GLC stand, "the sanest course..., both for the travelling public and for LT workers, would seem to be to return to a cheap-fares policy (and ideally one subsidised by central government). As it is the GLC which advocates this, it would seem sensible to leave LT under the immediate control of that body."

"50 Years of London Transport - Stage or Terminus" by Ken Fuller. 20p. Published by the Campaign to Improve London's Transport, 4 Beauchamp Road, Sutton, Surrey, SMI 2PZ.

Women all welcome

Women in the Clapton area who used to find themselves tied to their homes by small children or language difficulties, now have somewhere to go. Less than a month ago a new women's centre opened up in Downs Road and is already being well-used.

Advice and help is given on housing, claiming benefits and marital difficulties. Two Asian workers are on hand to help Asian women who have difficulties in communicating and there are two home visitors who visit elderly or house-

with small children in tow. There was on the other hand an abundance of church premises, sitting empty most of the week, completely wasted. The answer was to put the two together.

Since it opened, the centre has not stopped growing. Ideas women using the centre have had, things they want to do, have been taken up. Indeed one of the most important principles behind the running of it is that it should be responsive to what the women who come there want.

Sharing skills

For instance, at the opening, one woman enjoyed the samosas and wanted to learn how to make them, so a class was organised; women take it in turns to show each other their own particular skills and dishes. Another demand was for an Asian woman who knew how to make Asian clothes - a skill handed down over generations and in demand now that Asian dress is coming back into favour, but a skill which has nearly died out here. A woman has been found who is trained in this art and is teaching the others all they want to know.

The centre is open from 9 to 5 on Monday to Wednesday and from 9 to 4 on Thursday and Friday. The activity room has sewing machines and knitting and crochet facilities; there is a tea and coffee room and a kitchen. Yoga classes are run on

Thursday afternoons and keep fit on Wednesday evenings. Whenever any possible suggestions are made, they will be added to the list of activities.

All women are more than welcome to go along and join in the action. Come along any time or phone on 533 0653.

This unprepossessing building just off Mare Street is to be the site for a unique project. I Darnley Road will become a combined sports and cultural centre serving the local African and West Indian community. The project is being run by the Harambee Cultural Centre who claim to have identified a demand for such a facility. They have already raised a quarter of the £450,000 required to convert the place. The Edwardian building with its completely open floors is well-suited for its proposed conversion into a top-floor sports hall, ground-floor general purpose hall and middle-floor changing rooms and meeting rooms.

Work should begin at the end of the year pending the outcome of grant applications to Hackney Council and the GLC.

FUN FEST



Picture: M. Adams

London Fields Festival this year is on Saturday July 23rd. and will run from 1pm to 9pm. The theme this year is Past, Present and Future and the games, stalls, music and the carnival procession that will open the Festival will reflect this. The sports this year will be cricket - the annual Councilors v. Officers match is part of the Festival - 5 a side football, archery, trampoline, fun run, slow bicycle race, tug of war, tennis coaching, croquet, bowls and more. For children there is Punch & Judy, the Albion kids show, the Golden dinosaur, the People's Farm as well as inflatable and soft play equipment. The Inner City Theatre Co. are giving the first performance of their new show "Monster Splash" in the swimming pool, which will also be used for a demonstration of synchronised swimming. Music will be provided by the Holloway All Stars, the Kathy Stobart City Lit. Band, the Woogie Band and Chats Palace. There will also be a barn dance, a hot air balloon and (of course) a beer tent.

Further information about London Fields Festival can be obtained from: 284, Queensbridge Road, E8. Tel: 254 2707

Other Festivals

Shoreditch Festival:
2nd. & 3rd. July

Hackney Marsh Festival:
9th. July

Stoke Newington Festival:
10th. July

Upper Clapton Festival:
24th. July

Holly Street Festival:
30th. July

Lee Valley ~ the forum

Once again, the future of the Lee Valley is being discussed. But this time local people have a much stronger chance of getting their voices, through the Lee Valley Forum.

This forum was set up in March to bring together all those in and around Hackney who want to preserve the River Lee as a place of beauty and use for local people.

The forum, with support from Hackney Council, is organising a series of six outdoor meetings, exploring the valley and discussing with whoever comes along the kind of things they would like to see happen.

The forum will then co-ordinate people's views into a plan for the area which will be passed on to the Lee Valley Park Authority. The authority intends to change the plan set up in 1969, which abounded in such gems as a four lane motorway and leisure complexes, for something more in keeping with the needs of the area.

The forum, which has members from local groups such as Save the Marshes, thinks that no drastic changes need to be made in the area. What it needs chiefly is sensitive planning, tree planting and some opening up with new paths and bridges (at present it is almost impossible to cross from Hackney to Walthamstow). Particularly important they consider is maintaining a balance between conservation and access. But since the Lee Valley is large enough to take all London's open spaces with room to spare, there should be enough of the valley for everyone's needs.

The remaining walks are:

7 July - Bully fen
21 July - Walthamstow reservoirs

All will begin at 7pm from the Prince of Wales on Lea Bridge Road. Further information from Laurie Elks 986 5378, Philip Jordan 986 9208 or Mike Grey 985 4438.

Picture: I. Priddey

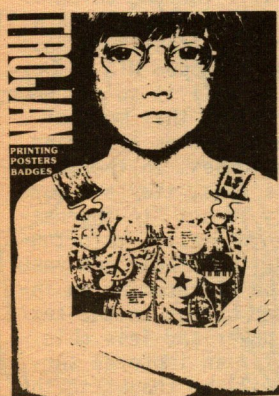


The centre, behind the Methodist church on Downs Road, is open to all women regardless of culture, creed or age. It is intended to be a place where women can go to mix with other women, whether they want to do keep fit, try yoga, experiment with sewing, knitting or crochet or try out cooking something from a totally different culture, or just have a chat and a cup of tea. There is even a creche for the children and everything is free.

At the centre there is also an information and counselling service for any problems women may have.

bound women. At the moment volunteers are being enrolled for an emergency help service for when women are taken ill suddenly - collecting children from school, giving transport to the hospital or any other service needed urgently until friends and neighbours can take over. It is intended to be a 24-hour service with the assistance of Friends Anonymous.

The idea for the centre, according to Asha Glendinning, a driving force behind its establishment, came from seeing how many one-parent families there were in the area and realising how lacking the place was in anywhere for these women to go, stuck as they were



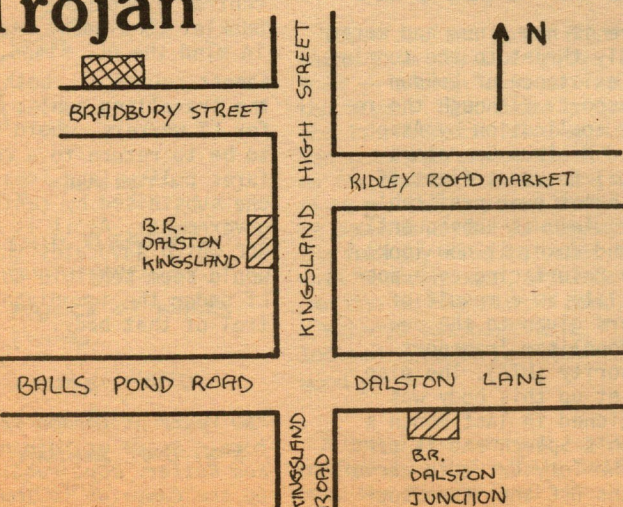
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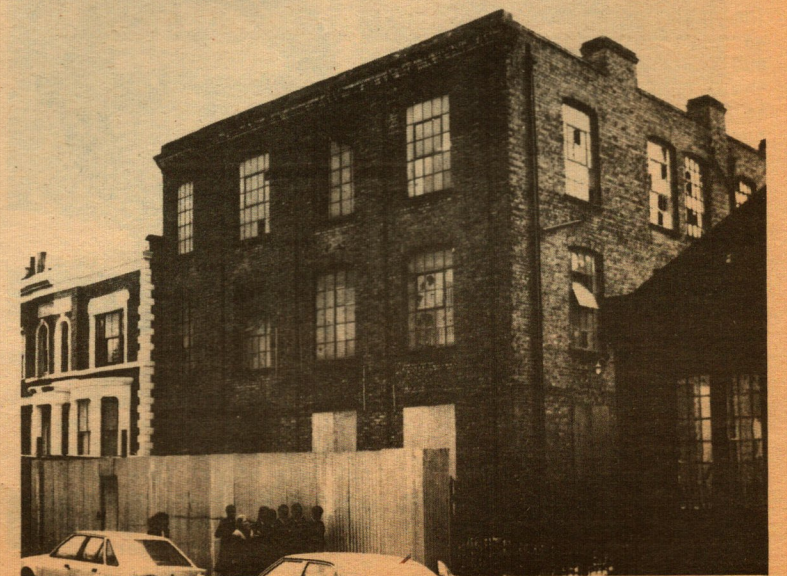
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HARAMBEE TO OPEN CENTRE



Picture: Hunt Thompson Associates

THE ROUND LONDON BIKE RIDE

At the beginning of the Round London Bike Ride on Saturday, June 18, Council Leader Anthony Kendall announced the imminent completion of a cycle path which will make journeys to the City safer. The route of the path follows the old Market Porters' run which was used to take vegetables grown in the once-thriving Lea Valley to the markets in the City. It is also the shortest and safest way to get from Hackney to the City, taking a diagonal line across London Fields and through the Broadway and Columbia Road Markets via Goldsmiths Row.

The refurbishment of the Market Porters' Route as a cycle path has been the main aim of the Hackney Cyclists' Action Group since its inception in 1978 and now, with a keen cyclist and member of the London Cycling Campaign as Leader of the Council, £100,000 of Hackney's Partnership Grant money is being spent on the project. Work on the London Fields section is in progress and the Works Department hopes to have the job completed by the end of the summer.

Warmed by this good news and the sun coming out, a pack of about thirty cyclists set off round London by way of Leytonstone and Bethnal Green Town Halls to the assembly point for cycle groups



from all over London at the Albert Memorial.

Then, as awareness of the potential power of several hundred cyclists together grew, militancy in the ranks spread. Not even the attempts of the police to segregate cyclists into smaller groups on the way to Jubilee Gardens could prevent us from cycling repeatedly round Westminster Square, causing a revenge traffic-jam.

At Jubilee Gardens there was food and light entertainment from the excellent Popticians. Then it was the turn of the politicians to vie for credibility with the cyclist audience. Bicycleman Jonathon Porritt of the Ecology Party convinced where tracksuited Albert Booth, ex-Labour Transport Minister failed to. The GLC's bike spokesperson, Paul Moore, outdid his Conservative counterpart, Peter Gill, by mentioning his study of Dutch cycling provisions and the upping of money spent on cyclists to a massive 1% of the GLC transport budget!

A few more bands played before we all cycled off into the sunset to dream of car-free utopias. And if it's any proof for the case - there were no injuries.

ON THE AIR



RELAY has recently published its Spring '83 issue. The aim of the magazine is to provide "a platform for all those struggling to develop new forms of radio - imaginative, accountable, accessible, democratic." It is published quarterly by a collective of volunteers and is open to anyone wishing to contribute.

ETHNIC RADIO

Of particular interest in this issue is a feature on ethnic radio. In an article on the Black Women's Radio Group, Ingrid Lewis argues for the setting up of a black radio station to cater for the interests and needs of the community rather than the usual professional station serving business concerns. There is also an article on the work of the GLC's Ethnic Minorities Unit. They recently held a one day consultation on "Ethnic Minorities and the Media". This mainly centred around access to the media by ethnic minorities. A working group was set up to examine a proposal for an ethnic radio workshop and an ethnic radio station for London. The BBC and IBA stations are also being approached about their programmes and employment policies. The EMU is hoping to establish special training courses so that more people from ethnic minorities can obtain the media skills needed to compete for jobs in these areas. The EMU has also commissioned a study into the problems of the ethnic press, ways in which all could be helped and new opportunities for developing markets in this field.

Another item in the ethnic radio feature covers APNA Radio. It is the idea of Iftikhar Sheikh. He has had discussions at the Home Office and at County Hall, and has already had

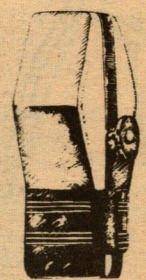
backing from local community groups. The latter will help to decide what type of programmes APNA Radio will broadcast when it goes on the air. The station's aim will be to attempt to provide better understanding between the ethnic minorities and the local population. Programmes will be broadcast in 10 different languages including West Indian, Italian, Greek, German, Chinese, Gurjati, Indian, Bangladesh, Sylhaty and Pakistani.

OUR RADIO

Elsewhere in RELAY are articles on Our Radio and on East London Community Radio. Our Radio is an open access Community Radio Station, at present illegal. Currently, they are transmitting with Dread Broadcasting Corporation, a black reggae evening on Fridays 10pm - 2am. On Wednesdays, 5pm - late, they are broadcasting an evening of alternative entertainment. This includes: 5 - 6pm, 'Radio Solidarity', news, views and music from 'occupied' Poland; 6 - 7pm, 'Women on the Waves', a programme by women for women; 7 - 9pm, 'Gay Waves', Britain's first homosexual wireless programme; 9 - 10pm, 'The Message', radical radio at its best; 10 - 11pm, 'Utopia', an independent cassette radio show; 11pm - late, 'The Bag', a programme of music and cut-ups. Our Radio can be heard in most parts of London. They hope in the near future to go out 7 nights a week. They need help of any sort and would particularly like to put on air programming for and by Labour Party members. The station can provide facilities and training for anyone who would be interested in broadcasting. For further information, contact: Our Radio c/o I St. Barnabas Road, Woodford Green, Essex.

Nearer home, there is a group actively pressing for the establishment of a community radio station to cover Hackney and surrounding boroughs. East London Community Radio has been campaigning since its formation in 1978 for official recognition of its case. The members of the Campaign feel that the BBC and IBA stations, even the local ones, are too big to cater for the needs of communities like East London. To prove it, the Campaign has conducted general opinion polls whilst attending local fetes, carnivals, etc. Of those questioned, nearly everyone said that they would listen to an East London Radio Station if one existed. The Campaign's main objective at the moment is to provide further evidence of support and research by conducting detailed surveys in each borough. The only one completed so far, in Havering, showed that of 769 people questioned, 72% would listen to an East London Radio Station - largely because of an opportunity to hear community news and entertainment. Following a meeting at the House of Commons, almost all the MPs in the 7 boroughs to be covered by the proposed station support the campaign. If you think you can help in any way, please contact: Barbara Chinnery, ELRC, 129, Henniker Gardens East Ham, E6. Life membership of the Campaign only costs 20p. Free car stickers, badges, information sheets are all available on receipt of a s.a.e.

RELAY is available from: Box 12, 2a St. Pauls Road, NI.



'Co-op Street, N16'

A street of shops and workshops for co-ops is now occupied and in business. Bradbury Street, near Dalston Junction, now has some nine businesses in the newly renovated buildings.

The work has been carried out by Hackney Co-operative Developments with a grant from the Inner City Partnership. The project is intended to help small co-ops which could not otherwise afford decent premises to get off to a good start. In itself, the concentration of co-ops should help to boost business and act as a mutual source of encouragement.

Co-ops so far in the street include Honeybee, furniture restorers; Buds 'n blooms, florists; Cane it, furniture supplies; Bed and Breakfast, joiners; Alpha Omega, hi fi repairs and Mosquito bikes. And of course, Trojan Printers

who so kindly allow their premises to be used for this paper's layout.

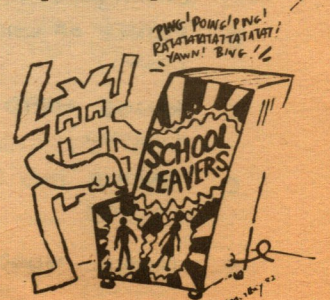
DISPOSABLE DISC

DISPOSABLE TISSUES BY PETE ZERO & THE OPTIONS (Review) I've always disliked records where you can hear all the lyrics first time. Somehow the music becomes mere accompaniment. "Disposable Tissues" proves the point and more.

This jaunty piece of anti-nuke Agit-Pop got me agitated alright! Finger on the lift-button of me 'player before Pete could say 'Ah-tishoo' for the twentieth time. 'Space Invaders', the B-side, is slightly better, the puns a bit less painful perhaps...? But the inclusion of Space Invader noises fails to capture the nightmare atmosphere of a 'Slots' shop - and the

chorus is so weak I wanted to help it across the road.

On the good side, the cover's nice and the Options, no doubt aware of just how memorable their tunes are, have thoughtfully printed the words and music inside. And at least nobody's trying to make a career out of it - all profits go to the peace camps.



Hackney Community Travel

If your community group has ever needed transport - either for people or equipment - you will be glad to know that Hackney Community Transport is now operational.

Individuals or groups can join, provided that the driver is over 21, has a year's driving experience and holds a clean licence. The cost is £2.50 for up to three drivers, extra drivers £1.

The vehicles for rental are:

- 12 seater minibus
- 12 seater automatic minibus
- 15 seater minibus with tail lift and wheel chair

anchorages
- box van for carrying equipment
Charge is 25p/mile.

Wanted

HCT needs volunteer drivers, escorts, painters, office workers and general dogs' bodies. If you would like to help, please get in touch. The office is open each week day from 10.30 until 5.00 (1.30 on Thursday). Answering service at other times.

For all enquiries, contact Clifford Fulford on 806 7462.

Doing the Lea Bridge crawl

This month, as promised, we bring you not one pub of the month, but several. Two of HPP's stout-livered reporters joined forces to bring you this Summer Special Pub Column. Risking life and limb, and straining their hand-eye co-ordination to the limit, they toured a number of establishments in scenic Upper Clapton and sampled an impressive selection of ales.

Ship Aground

Our expedition coincided with one of the first real days of summer. We started with a quick half of Charrington IPA at the Ship Aground, 144 Lea Bridge Rd. We were not overly impressed with the taste of the beer but it was in good condition and went down easily as we enjoyed the evening sunshine in the pleasant, if spartan, beer garden that overlooks the scenic Lea Bridge Road. The IPA was 72p a pint and the pub also serves Black Lable Lager, Worthington E and other assorted keg beers and lagers.

Prince of Wales

We could have stayed longer, but duty called us from across Waterworks Lane to the public bar of the Prince of Wales. The decor of this Youngs house is dominated by wood panel walls. In the

public bar this is set off by what one correspondent described as "a functional floor". The kind it feels comfortable to roll around on. The saloon bar is more restrained and has the feel of a genteel front room.

We sampled pints of Ordinary and Special bitter and knew that we were getting down to business. Although the Ordinary was not quite as good as it might have been, it was among the better pints of the evening. The Special tasted fresh and hoppy and left a little tickle at the back of the throat as it slid down like liquid gold. The Ordinary is 72p, the Special 77p, Youngs lager 84p and Guinness is 86p/pint.

We took our pints out to the beer garden and were lucky enough to get a riverside table. As we watched the river Lea flow by, we began to reflect upon the power that the river exerts. There is something mystical about the River Lea that seems to encourage thirst...

The bar featured two pool tables, a video game and Sheena Easton and Men at Work on the jukebox. We suspect that the joint goes crazy on Friday afternoons.

Anchor & Hope

Continuing our journey, we came to the Anchor and Hope, a Fuller's Pub at 15 High Hill Ferry. The bar measures 16' by 8', although it can often seem longer than that when you're fighting your way through the hordes to the bar or toilets. The principal drinking area in summer is along the river bank. After ordering a Pint of London Pride (69p) and Extra Special Bitter (79p) we stepped outside to gaze upon the railway lines, electric pylons and Leyton across the marshes.

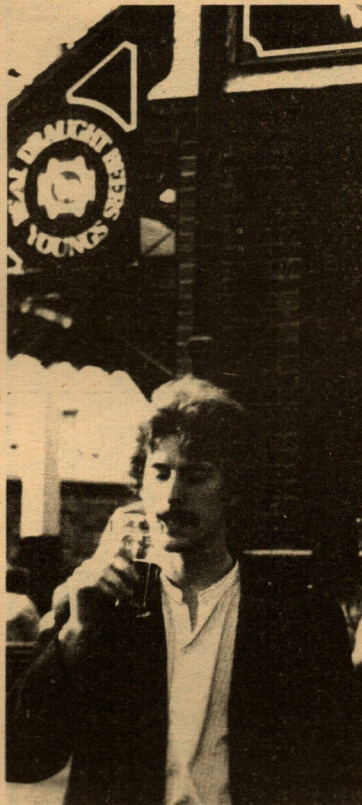
The Anchor and Hope has the reputation of being a pub for serious boozers. It is usually crowded and even boasts a handful of hippy regulars, attracted no doubt by the prospect of organic beer. Consequently it is a very good pub for long, involved conversations. However if you arrive after

The Robin Hood is a "concept" pub that suffers from the overeager attentions of the Courage brewery interior design department. The walls are festooned with fishing nets, life belts, oars and other nautical bric-a-brac. We both felt as though we were sitting in a goldfish tank.

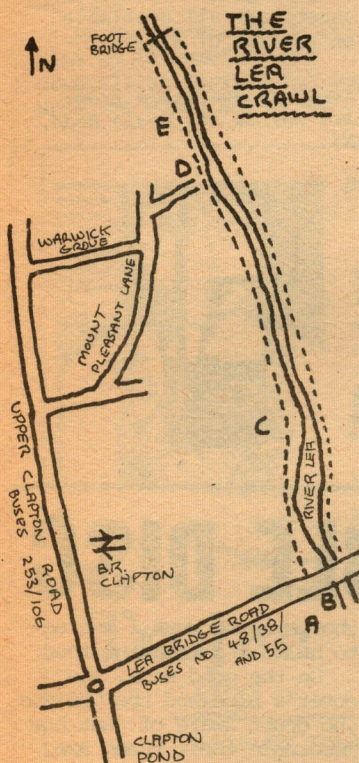


There was a large and affluent crowd, and it took ages for the HPP investigator to get served. By the time he obtained a bar person's attention, he had forgotten what to order. The Fullers beer was beginning to take effect. Unfortunately we got our beers mixed up and were unable to distinguish the Courage Best from the Directors. After wandering aimlessly around the bar, we were also unable to obtain prices for the drinks.

We concluded at this point that the only sensible thing to do was to head back to the Anchor and Hope for more Pride and ESB. As we have mentioned, the A & H is not a pub for those with delicate sensibilities. As we reached the bar and bayed loudly for more alcohol, the bar person asked: "Do you want a glass with that?"



"There is something mystical about the Lea that encourages thirst"



Early on a summer evening is a good time to appreciate the Prince of Wales. As the night progresses the car park begins to fill with greenbelt company cortinas and the saloon bar to swell with well groomed real ale bores.

Both the Prince of Wales and the Ship Aground have cockle stalls on the premises during weekend sessions. Although (for obvious reasons) the Ship Aground lives in the shadow of the Prince of Wales, it serves as a pleasant retreat from the crush across the street.

King's Head

There are two paths northwards from the Lea Bridge Road — one on each bank of the river. For those of you who like additional exercise and romantic riverside walks, we recommend crossing the river to the eastern bank. We however chose to stay on the Hackney side in order to walk through deep, wood-fenced canyons to the King's Head, a Watneys establishment located next to Latham's wood yard.

A large one bar pub, quite comfortable and nicely laid out, the King's head even had real ale in the form of Mann's IPA. It was nondescript, but drinkable.

9 pm. it is advisable to bring your own glass. As ducks paddled by, the two researchers engaged in a long, involved and not-so-sober conversation:

"You always know you're drinking ESB when you're drinking it," remarked one correspondent intellectually. "It's smooth, yet hoppy and sweet and fruity."

"A bit overripe," replied the other journalist, neglecting to add whether he was referring to the evaluation or the beer itself. "Ah, but this London Pride," he continued, "is so light and dry. It's always nice to drink, and has a dependable flavour." He took another long drink. "And it's good to the last drop!"

"It's a long way this pub," remarked the other. "But you can see why it's so packed. When you consider its strength, the beer is very well priced."

Robin Hood

Professional ethics dictated that we progress to our next stop: the Robin Hood, a courage pub just up the river from the Anchor and Hope. If you walk up the river on the far bank and cross over at Springfield Park, the Robin Hood is the first pub on the way back south.



DUSK AT THE ANCHOR AND HOPE - AND THE OVERSPILL OF DRINKERS LINES THE BANK OF THE RIVER LEA TOWARDS THE ROBIN HOOD.

Pictures: I. Priddy

pub of the month

WHAT'S ON

CHATS PALACE

HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

JULY CALENDAR

Important: As Chats Palace has a club licence all users of the building must be members or their guests.

Fri 8.00pm	1	E.L.T.O.M. present £2.50/£1.50 unwaged.	Carol Grimes
Sat 8.00pm	2	"A Midsummer Nights Dreamland" a variety night with Tony Locantro and friends (see programme news). £2/£1 unwaged.	
Sun Noon	3	Lunchtime Jazz with Ruthie Smith and friends Free.	
Wed 8.30pm	6	Chatsbah Night with reggae pianist, Floyd Lloyd. Free.	
Thu 8.00pm	7	Rare Earth present an evening of modern dance £2/£1 unwaged.	
Fri 8.00pm	8	Chatsbah Night with the comical dynamic duo Skint Video. Free.	
Sat 8.00pm	9	Chats Palace will be closed. See you all down at the Festival	
Wed 8.30pm	13	Chatsbah Night with boogie pianist King Cleary Free.	
Thu 8.00pm	14	Chats Palace Irish Session with Jimmy Powers, Reg Hall, Tommy Healy, Clerkin Dancers. £1/50p unwaged.	
Fri 8.00pm	15	Chats Palace Benefit with the Poison Girls, The Mob plus support. £1.00.	
Sat 8.00pm	16	Hackney Federation of Tenants Annual General Meeting. By invitation only	
Sun Noon	17	Lunchtime Jazz with Rae James Quintet Free.	
Tue 7.30pm	19	Chats Youth Club present "The Kosh" an exciting evening of dance. 75p.	
Wed 8.30pm	20	Chatsbah Night with Chris Gibson and Louis O'Neil Free.	
Thu 8.00pm	21	8.00pm. Doctor D's Rhythm Miracle Disco. £1.50/75p.	
Fri 8.00pm	22	Hackney Community Housing Benefit with The Managing Directors and The Sick Men Of Europe plus Reggae. £2.00/£1.00.	
Sat 6.30pm	23	Tropic Music Enterprise present an Afro/Caribbean showcase in celebration of Haile Selassie's birthday. £2.50/£1.50 unwaged.	
Sun 24	24	Noon. Lunchtime Jazz with Jazz Sviners. Free.	
Wed 27	27	8.30pm. Chatsbah Night. Irish music with Frank Blaney. Free.	
Thu 1.30pm 8pm	28	Chats Senior Citizens Club Afternoon Entertainment with Carol Calares and friends. Hackney Bands Showcase presented by Hackney Music Forum with Black Shades, The Body Electric plus support. £1.00.	
Fri 8.00pm	29	Centreprise Birthday Party. Good time fun for all (details to be announced).	
Sat 8pm	30	Homerton Ward Labour Party Social. "An evening with Max Headroom and his Friends", Rhythm 'n' Blues from the hip, English Country Dancing, Barn Dancing. £2.00/£1.00 unwaged.	

Other events



We are a group of people, women and men, some from Hackney's ethnic groups, some from Hackney's community groups, some unemployed, some in various jobs including film production, journalism, printing, writing, community work, teaching, health and others...

WE ARE THE RIO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE!

One of our members has moved to Wimbledon, and has therefore resigned, so we want to co-opt a new person. If you think you could add more variety to the list above and would like to join us with your own talents

and experience, please come along to our next meeting and introduce yourself. We shall be meeting at The Rio Cinema, 107 Kingsland High Street, E8 on Tuesday July 12 at 7pm.

In the meantime for an informal chat and more information ring 249 2722 or 254 6677.

Community Jobs

DALSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT require a second worker, initially on a 6 month contract, for administration and development of community activities. Knowledge of fundraising an advantage. Salary AP4/5 £8679 p.a. pro rata. Closing date 11th July. Job description and application form from Tina Lord, Dalston Community Centre Project, C/o 42 Montague Road, London E8. Telephone: 254-0984.

Theatre

HALF MOON THEATRE
213 Mile End Road, E1.
Tel: 790 4000

From July 13

"THE RAGGED TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS"

A play by Stephen Lowe
Based on the book by Robert Tressell

Robert Tressell's socialist classic, one of the greatest novels of the 20th century, was never more relevant. Tressell's themes - work, the lack of it, and the manipulation of both workers and management by the Capitalist system - are brilliantly portrayed in Stephen Lowe's acclaimed adaptation.

Monday - Saturday 8p.m.

Prices: Mon - Thurs £3.00 (OAP's, Children, Students £2) Fri & Sat £4.00
FREE TO UNEMPLOYED SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS.

THE LITTLE ANGEL MARIONETTE THEATRE

14 Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1.
Tel: 226 1787

Christopher Leith's "SHADOW SHOW"
Special performances for 3-5 year olds at 11 a.m. on Saturdays 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th July
+ for those of 6 years & over on Saturdays & Sundays at 3 p.m. 9-10th, 16th-17th, 23rd-24th & 30th-31st July.

Prices:
At 11 a.m. Adults £1.50, Children £1.00
At 3 p.m. Adults £2.00, Children £1.50

DALSTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE
112 Greenwood Road, E8.
Tel: 254 9661

14th July at 7.30 p.m.

"SIZE 10"
'Most of us feel alienated from our bodies - hardly surprising in a society where women are valued largely in terms of their physical appearance. Through interviews with four women, Size Ten explores both these negative feelings and the process of coming to terms with ourselves.'

"LINDA BEYOND THE EXPECTED"
'This film looks at the everyday pressure put upon women to conform to particular ideas about their sexuality, their relationship to the family and their economic and social position. This is done by looking at one woman, Linda, who lives with her two daughters. She discusses her early marriage which was expected of her and describes some of her contradictory feelings about the social conditioning of women.'

Cost 50p. Women only.

Music

Sundays at 7.30 p.m.

THE CHESNUT'S FOLK CLUB
The Chesnut Tree Public House, 757, Lea Bridge Road, E17. (near Whipps Cross roundabout)

3rd. July - Tim Laycock
10th. - Martin Carthy
17th. - Salami Brothers
24th. - Roaring Jelly
31st. - Steve Turner

Advertisement

BON • TON • ROULET

PEGASUS

109 Green Lanes N16. 226-5930.

★ ★ JULY BANDSTAND ★ ★

MONDAYS ★ **POOR BOYS** £1.00
'Cajun, Tex Mex & Louisiana R n B'

WEDNESDAYS ★ **FUFU & LIGHTSOUP** £1.00
'10 piece Afro / Caribbean Dance Band'

THURSDAY ★ **CAROL GRIMES** £1.50
7th & 21st (Alternate Weeks)

THURSDAY ★ **HANK WANGFORD** £2.50
14th & 28th (Alternate Weeks)

FRIDAY ★ **JUICE ON THE LOOSE** £1.50
1st, 8th, 15th & 29th.

FRIDAY 22nd ★ **JO ANN KELLY** £1.50
'Rock, Blues and Soul'

SATURDAYS ★ **BIG CHIEF** £1.50
'Jazz, Blues n' Boogie'

SUNDAYS ★ **THE REPUBLIC** £1.50

Reduced Admission most nights for claimants & students - on production of U.B. 40 or student union cards.

music every night

Manor House Tube. 141 - 171 Buses.

Cinema

ADVERTISEMENT

THE **RIO** JULY
107 Kingsland High St, E8

Fri 1 TO Wed 6	Passion (Goddard) + Rembrandt	9-15 7-15
Thu 7 TO Wed 13	DARK CIRCLE [An important new anti-nuclear film] performances at 6-00 + 9-45 King of Prussia 8-00 + No place to hide 7-30	
Thu 14 TO Wed 20	Educating Rita Please ring for performance times	
Thu 21 TO Wed 27	The Year of Living dangerously Please ring for performance times	
Thu 28 TO Sat 30	Veronica Voss + Lola Please ring for performance times	

WHERE FULL DETAILS ARE NOT SHOWN, PLEASE PHONE THE CINEMA FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON:- **254 6677.**

MATINEES

SUNDAY 3RD
Apré possé de Nice + 3pm
Zero de Conduite + 3-25
L'Atalante 4-30

SUNDAY 10TH
Ring for details
SUNDAY 17TH
midsummer night sex comedy (Woody Allen)

+ Richard Prior Live on sunset strip

SUNDAY 24TH
Red shoes + Black Narcissus

SUNDAY 31ST
Blue Angel + Shanghai Gesture

HOW TO GET THERE

By rail: The cinema is 3 mins walk north of Dalston Junction (BR North London Line).
By bus: Nos 67 76 149 226 263 stop outside Nos 25 30 38 48 277 stop at Dalston Jctn.
By tube: Highbury & Islington, or Liverpool St., then by bus.

TICKETS: £2.00 (Under 15s, OAPs, UB40s £1.00)

HACKNEY'S EARLY RADICALS

Priestley and the Pit

As part of our occasional series on Hackney's radical history, MIKE GRAY looks at the life of Joseph Priestley who, it is hoped, the GLC will soon honour with a blue plaque.

The man who first discovered oxygen was born 250 years ago on March 13th, 1733. His name was Joseph Priestley and Hackney can claim a

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Perhaps this issue of HPP is the first one you've ever seen. Perhaps you've bought the odd copy in the past, but never regularly. Perhaps you are a devoted monthly reader (there are some!).

Whatever you are, did you know that you can help write or produce the next issue? All you have to do is come to our open editorial meeting, which will be held in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on Wednesday 13 July.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If your newsagent doesn't sell it - and you think she or he would like to then please contact us. We can arrange delivery on sale or return regularly at the beginning of each month.

If you enjoy reading HPP and think that more people should read it please get in touch with us if you are willing to sell a few copies to friends or neighbours or at meetings. Even if you don't have the time to get more fully involved, we would still be pleased to hear from you.

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

I enclose a donation of _____ to HPP
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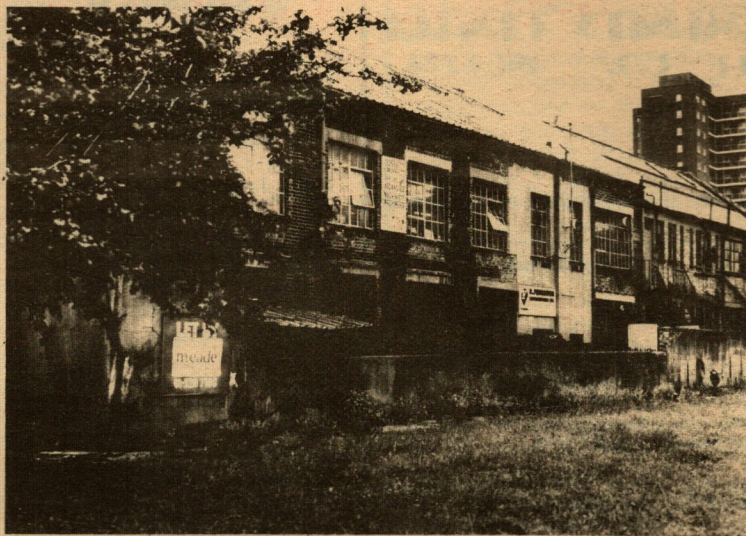
strong association with the great scientist.

Opposite the 'Round Chapel' in Lower Clapton Road is a little footpath which runs between attractive victorian villas to Clapton Square. The pathway, Clapton Passage, is shown on the earliest maps of the parish and may even date back to Roman times. During the 18th century and up until about 1880 a large house with a walled garden stood at the southern corner of the passage, where it joins Lower Clapton Road. It was in this house that Dr. Joseph Priestley lived between 1791 and 1794.

The circumstances that brought Priestley and his wife Mary to Hackney were dramatic and distressing. Priestley was one of the leading spokesmen for Unitarianism, the creed which rejects the concept of the Trinity and claims the 'simple humanity of Jesus Christ'. These ideas were, or course, considered heretical by the Church of England and dangerous by the government. Caricaturists dubbed Priestley 'Gunpowder Joe' and he and Tom Paine were mocked and vilified, even burnt in effigy for their supposed unpatriotism.

On July 14th, while Priestley was living in Birmingham, a rampaging mob wrecked the meeting houses of the dissenters. Priestley himself was forced to flee just hours before his own house, laboratory and library were destroyed.

It was natural for Priestley to seek refuge in Hackney as he had many friends in the area (which had been



The site of the Gravel Pit Chapel, Homerton

a stronghold of non-conformism since the civil war). A large congregation of Unitarians worshipped at the Gravel Pit Meeting House in Homerton, and one of the most respected academics, 'Hackney New College' had recently been founded in Lower Clapton. Priestley, in fact, soon after his arrival was invited by the congregation to fill the vacancy of Minister at the Meeting House. Part of the building originally built in 1716, still survives. It forms the core of a group of factory units in Ram Place near Morning Lane. Priestley also gave lectures on chemistry and history at the 'New College'. Conservative statesman Edmund Burke described the college as 'a volcano of sedition' and 'a nursery of riot' because of its radical tutors and republican student body. Nothing visible remains of the college itself, which stood near what is now the junction of Dunlace Road and Median Roads, but a thirty yard stretch of the original red-

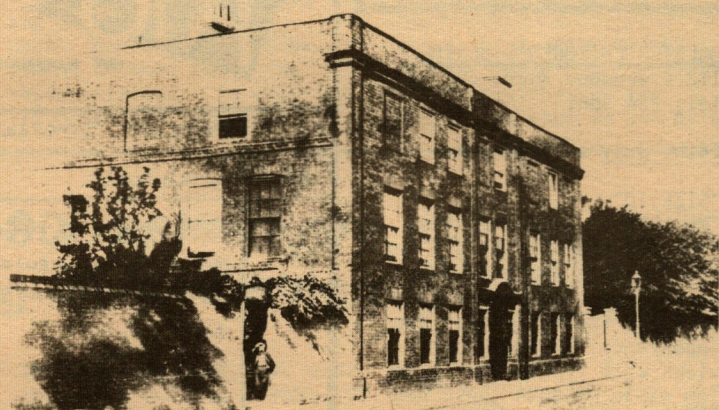
brick boundary wall of the college grounds still stands in Conistone Walk.

Priestley recalls in his autobiography that "I spent my time even more happily at Hackney than ever I had done before; having every advantage for my philosophical and theological studies." Friends helped him equip a laboratory and he resumed his experiments, publishing, while in Hackney, 'Observations and Experiments on the Generation of Air from Water'.

However he never felt really secure from further physical attack and began to feel increasingly pessimistic about the prospects of political change in England. So, reluctantly, for he deeply regretted leaving his Hackney friends, he and his wife decided to join their three sons in America. They sailed from Gravesend on April 8th 1794 and never returned. Mary died two years later, Joseph in 1804.

There are few traces left now of Priestley's association with Hackney, even Priestley Street, named after him, off Homerton High Road is now just an unmarked drive through the Banister House Estate. However his name can still be found in the Rates Books preserved in the Hackney Archives and it is hoped that the GLC will erect a blue plaque to him on the old chapel in Ram Place where on 30th March 1794 he gave his farewell sermon to his Hackney congregation and England.

Mike Gray



Priestley's house in Lower Clapton Road as it appeared in 1880

Council bans people's voices

Continued from page 1

the groups that have to discuss their plans.

Here it was pointed out that in addition to the infringement of their democracy, there was a danger that groups were being divided against the Council. More than ever before there is a need for groups to put their energies into fighting WITH the council, many groups are willing to do this, but now feelings of suspicion and mistrust were arising.

So what is the review panel proposing? Although many details have not emerged and much of what has is confusing, some proposals have been made:

- A) Some sections of the community are under represented; this should be rectified by reserving places.
- B) Reps should live in Hackney.
- C) They should state any financial and other interests.
- D) They must not be paid members of the group which nominated them. (Details are not yet known but HCRE, HCA and HEMA are particularly concerned about this).
- E) Changes to the rules so that when financial decisions are to be taken there must be a majority of councillors over co-opted members present.
- F) Introduction of new disciplinary procedures.
- G) Suggestion that HEMA elections should be organised by HCRE because the potential co-optees are the people who organise the elections. (This caused much resistance and bad feeling as it was seen as an attack on the independence of groups)

Another meeting with the review panel has been arranged for later in the year. Meanwhile the Leader of the Council has agreed to try and get the council to reverse the decision barring the newly elected reps from HCA and HEMA. We shall see... Much remains uncertain, for more/new information Tel Hackney Community Action on 729 5536.

HEADLINES

A note from our technical improvements department.

You may notice that a large number of headings in this issue are set in the same type. This is because we've been able to invest some of our Crunch Fund money in some headliner fonts.

